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3 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Reactions to Congressional Breakfast Briefing of
26 November 1969

1. On 26 November 1969 Representative John O. Marsh (D., Va.) passed on to me the following reactions and suggestions from the congressional breakfast briefing of that day:

- a. The reaction was extremely favorable in all respects.
- b. The Director's performance was outstanding and the members were particularly grateful for the amount of time he spent with them, which considerably exceeded their expectations.
- c. Colonel White's briefing was excellent and in Mr. Marsh's personal opinion the fact that he did not rely on charts made his presentation more effective.
- d. Mr. Duckett's discussion of the Soviet space program made a particularly favorable impression.

2. Mr. Marsh said that there are several members who originally had been invited but could not attend, all of whom hoped to have a second chance. They include: Representatives Ed Edmondson (D., Okla.), Jim Wright (D., Texas), Jack Brinkley (D., Ga.), Spark Matsunaga (D., Hawaii), George Shipley (D., Ill.), Louis Wyman (R., N.H.), and Joseph McDade (R., Pa.).

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3. I explained to Mr. Marsh that we would be glad to stage a rerun but we do have the problem of tying up all the top personnel for an extended period. With this in mind, Mr. Marsh and I discussed the possibility of beginning as we did that day--having the Director appear at the breakfast to welcome the group and answer questions, then after the Director and most of the Deputies excuse themselves for the 9:00 meeting, having Colonel White explain the Agency's organization and relations within the community; then take the group on a tour of the Ops Center, FMSAC and the Commo Center, returning around 10:00 a. m., for a question and answer period with a panel of such senior Agency officers as are available.

4. Mr. Marsh said that Representative Edmondson particularly regretted his inability to attend this morning, remarking that Agency briefings of the kind planned were much needed by a number of congressmen who felt they weren't being kept adequately informed.

5. Representative David Satterfield (D., Va.) said he hoped that some of his colleagues could receive a similar briefing, remarking that many of them are still hopelessly confused about the extent, and even the existence, of effective congressional and White House controls over the Agency's covert action functions. Satterfield cautioned, however, that we should not blindly invite congressional members for intimate briefings of this sort because there were perhaps 30 or 40 of them he could identify who would use anything we told them to embarrass us. He said he would be glad to give us his personal advice regarding individual cases.

6. Representative Jack Edwards (R., Ala.) said he did not feel he had received a snow job and that he had learned a great deal which he felt would be helpful.

7. Representative Samuel S. Stratton (D., N. Y.) asked that we express his regrets for having to leave early to attend the Special Subcommittee on Investigations looking into the My Lai incident and said that even though he had been out here four years ago the session was very profitable to him.

8. Representative Burt L. Talcott (R., Calif.) said that he would like to get together with his colleagues to sort out what they had heard and probably to get briefings from others in the Executive Branch to complement what they had heard this morning. He also viewed the BPR property next door as possibly an attractive site for location of DIA and was interested in determining the Agency's general posture in giving equivalent briefing treatment to the press and other groups.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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